



GEORGIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

J. TERRY NORRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 1000 ▪ Stockbridge, GA 30281 ▪ Phone (770) 914-1076 ▪ www.georgiasheriffs.org

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April 29, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: *Ex Parte* Communication
WC Docket No. 12-375; Inmate Calling Services**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Georgia Sheriffs' Association hereby files an *ex parte* communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The Georgia Sheriffs' Association supports the comments and reply comments filed by the National Sheriffs' Association in this proceeding. The purpose of this filing is to submit additional information specific to the sheriffs' offices across the State of Georgia in support of NSA's position that Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs if ICS services are to continue to be widely available in jails.

Inmate calling is a discretionary service in our jail(s) and it is allowed for the benefit of inmates and their families. If we are not permitted to recover the costs associated with the provision of ICS service, then we can and we may be forced to significantly limit or eliminate altogether access to inmate phones in our jail(s). Currently, we have the incentive to allow significant access to ICS service and inmates are able to make calls on a state-wide average of 15 hours per day. Denying payments to jails or restricting such payments to levels that do not at least cover our costs, will have the effect of reducing the incentive and ability to continue to allow ICS in this manner.

Some of our sheriffs have faced budget cuts in recent years, while others must contend with budgets that have not kept pace with operational costs. This is likely to continue across the state. In addition to security and administrative functions that must be maintained, there are programs for inmates that we are required to maintain by law. Many of our sheriffs are able to off-set these costs, thus saving tax revenue, through funding derived from ICS. If the cost of allowing ICS must compete with all other budget needs, it may not be funded. However, if the cost of allowing ICS has its own source of funding, it is less likely to be impacted by the budget process.



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Accordingly, Sheriffs incur significant costs in allowing ICS in jails and Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs to be able to continue to allow ICS and to encourage the deployment of ICS in jails.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Terry Norris". The signature is stylized with a large "J" and "N".

J. Terry Norris
Executive Director